

# Celebration held for DNREC's Division of Parks & Recreation's Veterans Conservation Corps



DNREC's Division of Parks & Recreation's Veterans Conservation Corps members at end-of-season celebration at Trap Pond State Park Nature Center, managed by DNREC's Division of Parks & Recreation. Pictured left to right, Charles Harris, Jae Moore, Taylor Burkett, John Byrd, DNREC Parks & Recreation Operations Manager Matt Ritter, Joshua Yawn, Rhiannon Dillon, Mark Kammer, Shannen Dillon, Terry Hines, Andrew Hansen, DNREC Parks & Recreation Administrator Greg Abbott, Marquis Stewart, Kayleigh Velott, DNREC Secretary Shawn M. Garvin, Earl Bowman, Dawn Duman, Enid Wallace Simms, DNREC Division

of Parks & Recreation Director Ray Bivens, Glenn Catchings, Julie Lawrence, Ian Silva, Glen Moore.

**LAUREL** – Eighteen Veterans Conservation Corps (VCC) members spent 11 months in DNREC's state parks performing trail maintenance, meadow management, invasive species eradication, and assisting in construction of boardwalks, solar panels, yurts and fire rings, and dozens of other park based projects. During a celebration of their service at Trap Pond State Park Nature Center, DNREC Secretary Shawn M. Garvin and others thanked the veterans, immediate family members and retired veterans for all of their hard work in state parks managed by DNREC's Division of Parks & Recreation.

"Not only have these veterans and their immediate family members sacrificed for the good of their country, they have also made a tremendous impact in our state parks that is invaluable," Secretary Garvin said. "They have helped promote, protect, and conserve Delaware's natural wonders and that has created outstanding benefits for our state parks and the people who use them. I cannot express how grateful we are for their hard work."

The VCC celebration highlighted the hard work and progress made over the past 11 months by the 18 members of the 2017 Veterans Conservation Corps, who began the program in October of 2016. DNREC's Delaware State Parks VCC program provides high quality jobs and environmental opportunities for veterans and their immediate family members and military retirees. Corps members conduct meaningful environmental and park-focused activities as a means of providing a lasting benefit for state parks. VCC is committed to engaging veterans in important conservation and park projects while providing hands-on skills and knowledge enabling members to find employment in the natural resources field.

For more information on the VCC, contact Program Manager Karen Minner, DNREC's Delaware State Parks Veterans Conservation Corps, 302-739-9208. For information on how to apply, visit: <http://www.destateparks.com/volunteers/amicorps/military.asp>

**Media contact:** Beth Shockley, DNREC Public Affairs,  
302-739-9902

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